

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Vent damper apparatus for a water heater, the apparatus comprising:  
a base; and  
a damper assembly, extending from the base, for limiting flow of ambient air from a flue of the water heater, the damper assembly including  
a plurality of independently pivoted flat dampers, the plurality of independently movable dampers leaning inwardly toward one another when the dampers are in a closed position,~~and~~  
a frame for supporting the dampers and enabling pivoting of the dampers from ~~a~~the closed position preventing ambient air flow therepast to an open position allowing passages of exhaust gases therepast, said dampers being disposed generally parallel to exhaust gas flow in said open position.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of independently movable dampers lean outwardly away from one another when the dampers are in an open position.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1 wherein the independently movable dampers are pivotally connected to the frame.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein each damper includes a tab for limiting movement of each damper past the open position.
6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said tab is adjustable with respect to the damper for controlling the limit of damper movement.
7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the damper assembly includes pins for pivotably connecting the damper to said frame.
8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of independently movable dampers comprise a base portion and a relatively narrow upper portion.
9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the independently movable dampers define a generally pyramidal configuration when the dampers are disposed in a closed position.
10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the frame comprises a plurality of legs angularly disposed with respect to each other.